

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03
INSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCA-01 /063 W
-----252253Z 099603 /45

R 251017Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 492
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USUN NEW YORK 1755
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, TH
SUBJECT: WCRP VESSEL ACTIVITIES: THE LEAP DAL

REF: SINGAPORE 1139

1. DR. HOMER JACK VISITED BANGKOK MAR 24, CALLING ON
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR MINISTRY, DAMRONG
SUNTHONSARATHUA, OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR
REFUGEE QUESTIONS WITHIN RTG. DAMRONG WAS COMPLETELY
NEGATIVE ON ANY PROSPECTS OF THAILAND TAKING BACK ANY
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OF THOSE REFUGEES ON BOARD THE LEAP DAL, INTIMATING
THAT THE MOST HIS GOVERNMENT COULD POSSIBLY DO WOULD BE
TO GRANT THEM TEMPORARY PERMISSION TO DISEMBARK HERE UNDER
AN IRONCLAD GUARANTEE THAT ALL WOULD BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE
WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

2. JACK VISITED EMBASSY MAR 24, AND HIS SUCCESSOR ON THE

PROJECT, DR. IISAKA, VISITED MAR 25, TO INQUIRE AS TO WHAT U.S. COULD DO TO RESOLVE LEAP DAL DILEMMA. SPECIFICALLY, THEY SHARE THE HOPE, APPARENTLY STIMULATED BY FRECH AMBASSADOR IN SINGAPORE, THAT AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, AND U.S. CAN MAKE ONE TIME SPECIAL EFFORT TO TAKE THE 251 LEAP DAL PASSENGERS IN A "PACKAGE DEAL." JACK HAS MEETING IN GENEVA MAR 28 WITH DEPUTY HICOM MACE, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL URGE UNHCR TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN WORKING OUT THE DEAL EITHER THERE OR IN NEW YORK. WCRP WOULD PLEDGE TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN REFUGE FOR PASSENGERS TEMPORARILY ON BASIS OF UNHCR/THREE COUNTRIES' GUARANTEES TO RESETTLE THE PEOPLE PERMANENTLY. EMBOFF PROMISED ONLY TO TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME TO DEPARTMENT.

3. BANGKOK UNHCR OFFICE IS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC, BELIEVING THAT MANY OF THE PASSENGERS ARE PROBABLY SINO-THAI OR REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN HERE ILLEGALLY. EVERYONE AGREES THAT BETTER SURVEY OF REFUGEES TO DETERMINE NATIONALITY IS PROBABLY NEEDED, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD ADMITTEDLY BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH.

4. EMBASSY IS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THIS PROPOSAL. TO ACCORD SPECIAL TREATMENT TO PERSONS, PROBABLY FEW OF WHOM WOULD QUALIFY UNDER ANY COUNTRY'S CRITERIA AND WHO WERE HERE ILLEGALLY OR WERE NATIVE BORN. WHILE MORE DESERVING AND PROPERLY REGISTERED CASES HAVE BEEN WAITING PATIENTLY IN REFUGEE CAMPS FOR A LONG TIME IN HOPE THAT THEIR TURN WOULD COME TO GO TO A THIRD COUNTRY, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPUGNANT TO US. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF RAISES POINT THAT TAKING PEOPLE OFF LEAP DAL FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE COULD ENCOURAGE OTHER HOPELESS CASES OR OTHERS, TO TAKE SAME ROUTE IN THE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WCRP IS IN-A DILEMMA TO WHICH THERE MAY BE NO OTHER SOLUTION. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, SREF, TH, (JACK, HOMER), (DAMRONG SUNTHONSARATHUA)
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